3:Stern E-4,5 (1949-1957) 1965 NR 10 Klamath NR 10

[Klamath Reservation]

*648 theless, analysis showed that they aggregated two extended
*657 families together with one other nuclear family unrelated to
602 either. The earlier arrivals had attracted relatives, but they had
178 been selective, encouraging some and in at least one instance giving the cold shoulder to a kinsman deemed undesirable, when he paid them an exploratory visit. For their part, they were scrupulous in choosing compatible relatives to visit on their occasional brief returns to the reservation.

• [736] That kinship bonds, selectively utilized, were still in force is shown not only by such action as the bidding for tribal tracts, but in the assumption of responsibility for the care of children from a broken home. Although choice was exercised among relatives, and the uncongenial among close kindred might be passed over in favor of more distant, but more compatible, relations, the principle first evoked was that of consanguinity. In the majority of instances, primary reliance was placed upon parents and children, upon siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren.

*648 Among kinsmen, there was an enlargement of the sphere of
*657 individual, at the expense of common, property. At times it took
602 bizarre extremes. In one adult household, for example, each
421 member's foodstuffs were separately stored and even individually
179 cooked; and each independently purchased his supply of the
178 wood to be burned in a common stove. There was evident in family interdependence what might be termed a pecuniarization of relationships, a conversion of traditional reciprocal obligations into the common denominator of coin. Already evident in the early days of allotment, it had grown with time, taking on as it did a onesidedness that was increasingly dysfunctional. Money could be extracted by the importunate from kinsmen still sensi-
[888] tive to the charge of stinginess. The aged, dependent upon their children for tenderness, were often likely to be besieged by their requests for "loans" from lease and per capita checks, and once those funds were dissipated, might then be left without enough to maintain themselves. Some families, like the ranchers previously described, were beginning to resist such demands, but for those still immersed in tribal society, refusal was difficult.

*648 The weakening of kin bonds entailed the disappearance of
*657 feud groups, entities that formerly had drawn principally upon
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